

REMARKS

The Office Action of January 2, 2001 has been carefully considered. In response thereto, claims 1, 4, 5, 8 and 10 have been amended. Claims 1 through 20 are made in this Application for further prosecution of the merits.

In the Office Action of January 2, 2001, claims 1 through 10 are rejected pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §§ 103(a) as unpatentable over Seto et al '630 in view of Andre et al '282. The Examiner states:

Regarding claims 1-10, Seto et al disclose a portable computing device 1 comprising: a housing having top 27 and bottom 2 portions connected by a hinge 28, the top 17 and bottom 2 housing portions having an inwardly facing surface, an outwardly facing surface and a peripheral edge; a set of keys disposed on an inwardly facing surface of the bottom portion 2; a display screen 18 disposed on an inwardly facing surface of the top 17 portion.

Seto et al fail to disclose a leather grain layer disposed on an exterior facing surface of the top portion, However, Andre et al teach a leather grain layer disposed on an exterior facing surface of the top portion (see Delamater column 9, lines 30-34). Therefore, it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to achieve cosmetic leather grain layer on exterior facing surface to be attractive or unique appearance of the portable computer device.

On page 3 of the Office Action, claims 11-20 were allowed in view of the references on record. The Examiner stated "that the cited art did not teach a leather grained layer located between a pair of raised lateral side edges," such as required in claim 11.

PATENT

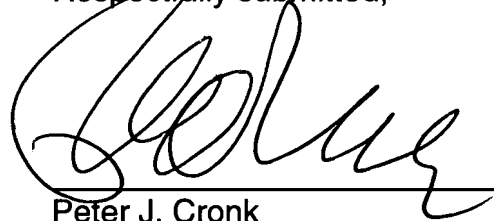
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Applicant has now amended independent claims 1 and 8 to require a pair of raised side edge portions or raised lateral side edges, and that the leather grained layer be disposed between these side edges or side edge portions. Claims 4, 5 and 10 have been amended to correct minor ambiguities resulting from these amendments.

Accordingly, reconsideration of the present Application is respectfully requested and an early notice of allowances are earnestly solicited.

Date: 3.9.01

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter J. Cronk', written over a horizontal line.

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